

ILLINOIS NUMBER

Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

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PUBLIC LIBRARY
DETROIT, MICH.

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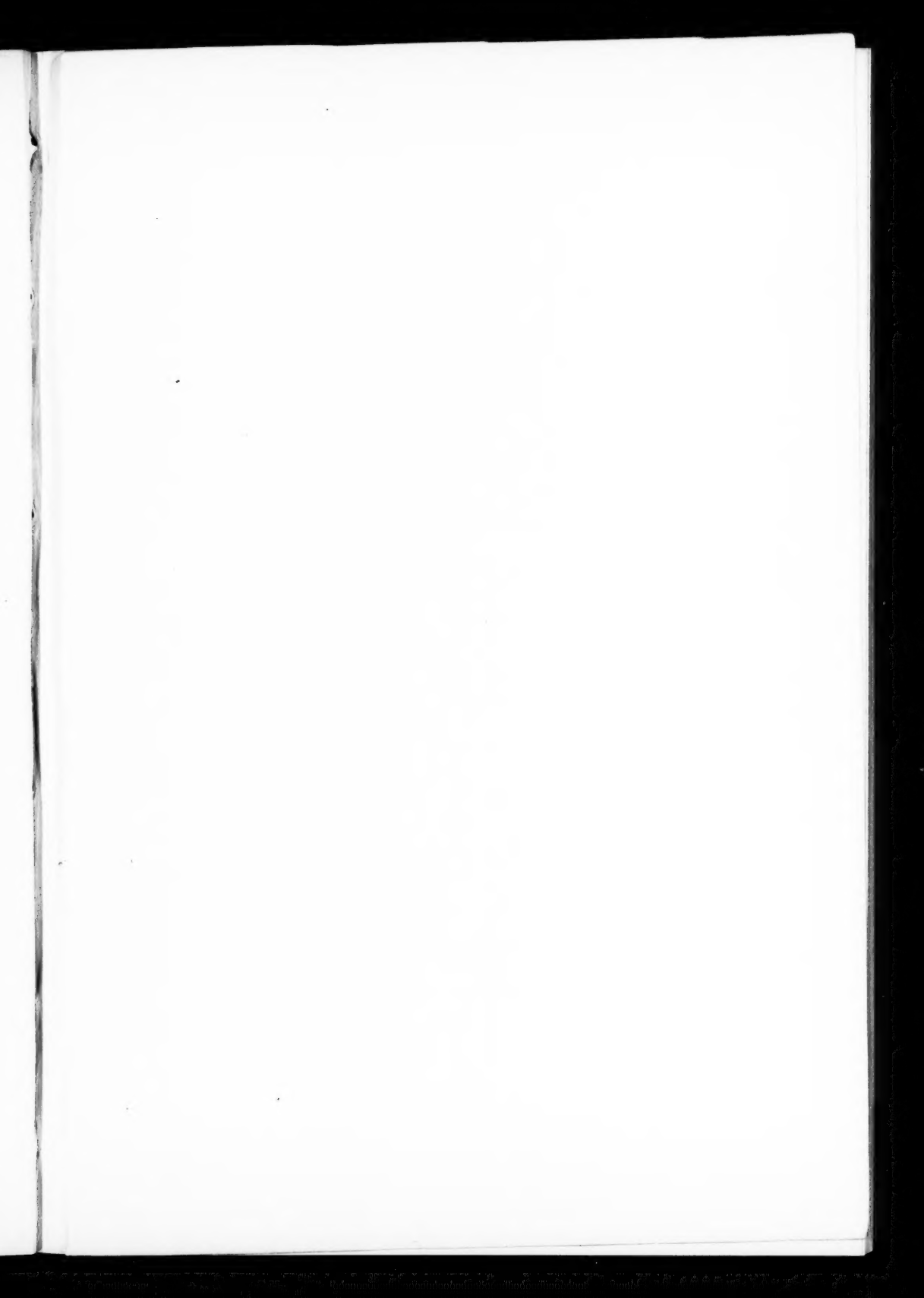
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Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

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No. 3

Special Training for Children's Librarians*

Annie C. Moore, Children's department Pratt institute, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Every kind of specialized work presupposes, on the part of those who undertake it, personal fitness, general training in the work of which the special forms a part, and special training in the work to be undertaken. The main points to be considered, therefore, in the subject of special training for children's librarians are:

- 1 Personal fitness, including general education.
- 2 General library training in its relation to special training for children's work.
- 3 Special training in library work with children.

Personal fitness

Personal fitness for a given work may, and often does, supply a lack of special training for it; but no amount of special training can ever supply the lack of personal fitness.

The children's librarian should be first of all well-educated, refined—but not too limited in her tastes; possessed of sound common sense, clear judgment, and a keen sense of humor; gifted it may be with that kind of sympathetic second-sight that shall enable her to read what is often obscure in the mind of the child. These qualities, if existing in a temperament sufficiently fired

with a sense of the dramatic to admit her freely into the child's experience, constitute the faculty known as "getting on with children." The more liberal the endowment the farther "on" we may hope to get.

If I were asked to make out a set of examination questions for the admission of students to a special course of training for library work with children, they would be so formulated as to bring out the following points:

Some personal knowledge of children based upon recollection of one's own childhood and upon contact with children.

Some personal knowledge of children's books, gained through actual reading of the books as distinguished from the knowledge acquired from the reading of reviews or of annotated lists.

Some personal appreciation of good pictures.

The recognition of related things and the tracing of their connection in books, in art, and in life.

The questions might be as follows:

1 a) Characterize some of the people you liked best as a child, mentioning the relations in which you knew them.

b) Characterize some of the people you disliked, giving reasons for repugnance, if you had any.

c) Have you outgrown your early likes and dislikes? Illustrate, if possible, by characteristic incidents.

2 Did you have many friends as a child?

*Read at A. L. A. meeting, 1898.

3 Have you known any one child or group of children intimately within the past five years, and in what relation?

4 Did you as a child care for nature, and were you taught to observe carefully?

Mention some of the earliest observations you are able to recall.

5 At what age did you begin to read? Mention if you can the first book you read with real enjoyment.

6 Did the characters in books impress you as a child with the reality of living people? If so, have you retained this faculty? Mention some notable instances.

7 What do you consider the 10 best books for children under 14 years of age?

8 Characterize the author and the style, and outline the story of one of the 10 as you would tell it to some child of your acquaintance.

9 a) What kind of pictures did you care for as a child; that is, what subjects interested you most? Mention by subject any that you may remember.

b) What kind of pictures do you care for now? Mention six by subject, giving the name of the artist if possible.

10 a) Mention six events or incidents of the Revolutionary war that you would choose to illustrate by pictures for children under 14 years of age.

b) Mention 10 books—stories, poems, biography, or history—that you would select to interest children in the Revolutionary war.

c) Mention and briefly characterize three of the leading characters of the Revolutionary war with whose portraits children should become familiar.

Questions might be multiplied, but these, if taken in connection with reading aloud (both poetry and prose), would serve to bring out the main factors in library work with children, which are, as I have stated: Personal knowledge of children and of their books; some appreciation of good pictures; and the recognition of related things and the tracing of their connection in books, in art, and in life. Perception of this, the underlying principle of all

true educational work (illustrated by question 10), might be very dim; but the capacity or the non-capacity for its development would be clearly evidenced by a paper written in answer to the above questions.

General library training in its relation to special training for children's work

The children's librarian who is expected to know or to be able to find out "while you wait," "who shot the first gorilla, and where it was done," to be able to identify any book in her collection with neither a author, title, nor subject-matter for a guide, can hardly have too much practice in chasing fugitive facts, in compiling reference lists, and in meeting different kinds of people in connection with a great variety of subjects.

She will need sufficient practice in all kinds of routine work to enable her to accomplish such work easily and with a well-regulated economy of time and strength. Facility in all manner of detail work, if held in subordination to the work itself, is a most necessary part of a student's equipment.

In the classifying and the cataloging of her books, and in the preparation of bulletins and analytical lists, the children's librarian will put to the test her training in classification and in cataloging.

It has been possible during the past two years to give to the students of our general course in library training some practice in the more distinctive features of children's work. They have been brought into contact with the children through the ordinary channels of waiting upon them. They have been brought into contact with the children's books by means of analytical work, by solving problems for individual children, and by making lists upon various subjects for children of varying age and of different tastes. They have been brought into contact with pictures by clipping from old papers and magazines, classifying the clippings by subject for exhibition work or for scrap-books. They have been given some

practice in mounting pictures and in printing copies of the text to be used for exhibitions. They have analyzed the children's papers and magazines for the weekly bulletin, and new books have been offered for their inspection before being placed upon the shelves. They have assisted in the preparation and have helped to carry forward two exhibitions—the Hero exhibition and the Spring exhibition—and they have assisted in the preparation for an exhibition of children's authors and one of animals, to be given in the early fall. For the Author exhibition, each member of the class has written a biographical sketch.

The class has listened to lectures upon the various phases of children's library work as carried on by other libraries. They have been directed to the best children's lists and to the best articles upon children's reading. Careful observation of their work, which, through lack of time, has been more or less superficial, and some comparison of experience, strengthens our conviction that there is great need for a special training in library work with children; and this brings me to—

Special training for library work with children

I have outlined what seem to us to be the most urgent needs of the children's librarian:

Knowledge of children; of their books; of good pictures; and the recognition of their interrelationship, or a sense of the fitness of things.

These needs might be met, in part, in a special course, with regard to the children, by a judicious alternation of practical experience with children and of reading and studying about them, and in the reading of poetry and biography; with regard to children's books, by actual reading of the books themselves, and by a great variety of field work of the nature of that which is so admirably presented in the Cleveland List for third grade teachers

It will be impossible to give to the special student of children's work a thorough acquaintance with children's

books until we shall have become better acquainted with the books themselves, rather than with their reputations, for we do not, as yet, know our books well enough to use them as we might. Constant comparison of experiences by children's librarians concerning the books children of different libraries are reading, and have read, and what they think about them, would do more than anything else just now for the cause of children's reading. It is not enough to give students lists of best books nor lists of tabooed books; they will need clear, definite statements regarding the contents of the books. If we are to be told, as we often are, that our children's histories are inaccurate; that their books of science are out of date, or that they are filled with errors; that their stories are sentimental or sensational, that they are lacking in stimulus or that they are too stimulating, then we need to be told more. We need to know just where to find the good points and the weak points.

Is there not a tradition among librarians concerning children's authors and children's reading at present, and would it not be well worth while to begin to consider a list of children's books that shall be carefully evaluated by specialists?

With pictures there are possibilities as great, under some conditions greater possibilities, than with books. The student should be taught to look at pictures from the double standpoint of their art value and their practical utility in the illustration of a given subject. One needs to be capable not only of recognizing, appreciating, and using the best when it is to be had, but equally capable of using the material at hand in the most effective manner possible.

There are many subjects which might enter into the special course of training for library work with children—story telling, both reproductive and original, with pictures and without their aid, would be worthy of consideration. Practice in the condensation of a subject without sacrificing the interest, if subjected to the searching criticism of

the children, would be one of the most valuable parts of the training. This exercise might take the form of brief biographies, stories, or descriptions to be used in connection with picture exhibitions and with scrapbooks. By some such means, perhaps, we may come to the better solution of the most difficult of all our problems—enough interesting and well-written children's books to go round.

Some knowledge of the public school curriculum is absolutely essential, likewise a knowledge of local topography. The possibilities resulting from coöperation with teachers and parents, and some of the means of affecting such coöperation, should be pointed out. The relation of child study and of experimental psychology to the problems of our work is yet to be determined. That a certain amount of practical psychology is essential to any successful work with children is beyond dispute.

The multiplication of subjects in such a course as has been suggested would defeat the very object which is: training in clear thinking on the subjects of children's books and pictures, and in the perception of their interrelationship, rather than in imitation and dependence on the letter of what has been taught, or on mechanical devices. To be capable of understanding and appreciating children, and of knowing what is inside of their books, implies, of necessity, the power to bring them together, or, if needful, to keep them apart.

The opening of the first free public library and reading room in the large and wealthy city of Nürnberg makes one reflect with wonderment on the almost universal lack of such institutions in German cities. This is, no doubt, to be accounted for by the existence of so many excellent libraries open to scholars and of the popular *Lehrerbibliothek*, which, to a certain extent, meet the wants of the middle and lower classes. But the foundation of free public libraries of a higher order, with well-appointed reading rooms, has commenced at last.—*N. Y. Post*.

The Library as an Inspirational Force

Sam Walter Foss, Librarian, Somerville, Mass.

A library has no especial reason for self-felicitation simply because it distributes a large number of books. In fact, it is possible for it to give out a very large number of books and do more harm than good. The test question to ask is: Is it grinding out a product of enlightened and symmetrical men and women? Is it transforming the community into intellectual, thoughtful, better equipped, more roundly developed citizens? Is it making life any ampler, is it making men any manlier, is it making the world any better? If there is any library that cannot answer these questions affirmatively, its librarians are doddering their lives away in useless activity, and receiving a salary without rendering any real service in return. The activities of such a library are useless contortions, and the taxpayers have a right to protest against its further existence.

What can a librarian do to make his library an inspirational force? In the first place he must be as accessible as a turnpike road. It seems to me that he can do more good by talking to people than in any other way. To do this, of course, it is a prerequisite that he should know something. I have no faith in the miserable heresy that a librarian who reads is lost. A librarian who does not read would better not be found in the first place. A librarian who does not read is simply a stable keeper for books. He may see to it that they are well blanketed, groomed, and put in the proper stalls, and that the various implements about his stable are kept in good order; but such a librarian will never be mistaken for an intellectual giant in his community. Let him know the books he handles so that he can talk with schoolgirls about Sophie May and Virginia Townsend, and with boys about Henty and Brooks and Knox and Butterworth. Let him be able to discuss Herbert Spencer and David Harum with equal zest, and know something about

Kant and a good deal about Kipling, and venerate Marcus Aurelius, and not despise Mark Twain. His mind should be a live coal in its love for books, and then nestle up to other minds and let them get ignited also.

But it may be said that a librarian hasn't the time for such extensive reading. Did you ever know a boy who couldn't find time to play? One always finds time to do the thing he loves to do; and a man who has a genuine love for reading will find time for it even in a library.

One of the greatest longings that any soul can have is a longing for some one to talk with who is interested in identical subjects.

A librarian, through personal intercourse, can become a powerfully educative influence in his community, and start intellectual impulses that will not subside during his lifetime, but go on widening and blessing indefinitely. Let him become the father confessor of minds in his town or city; the priest of the intellect, to whom all men shall bring all their mental problems, all their dubious enigmas of the brain. He will not be able to solve all their puzzles or untie all their knots; but perhaps he will be able to hold the candle for a little while while they struggle with the knots themselves. Let him always hold the candle, and talk pleasantly while he is holding it.

This matter of being pleasant in a library is really the first and great commandment. There should be an air of welcome inside that is pleasanter than the sunshine outdoors. The deathlike stillness and tomblike hush, the sepulchral gloom, the graveyard silence that sometimes prevails in libraries, should not be encouraged. Make people feel at home. The library here can learn a good lesson from the barroom. There are no signs up in a barroom intimating that loud talking is not allowed, nobody walks on tiptoes, everybody is welcomed heartily and encouraged to stay, and men find a sympathetic friendliness there who find it nowhere else. John Wesley said we should not allow the

devil to monopolize all the good tunes. The library should not allow the barroom to monopolize all the spirit of human friendliness and good cheer. I am sincerely glad that the old type of librarian is passing out—a man so dignified that children were afraid of him, whose face was so long that his chin dragged on the floor. We want human men with blood in them in a library; men who like men and love children; men who can make themselves agreeable to men, women, children, and dogs. Let us make life as pleasant in a library as a mother's twilight hour with her children, and we shall raise up great families for the afterdays, who shall look back upon us as their intellectual parents, and rise up after we are gone and call our memories blessed.

There are three classes of books—books that give pleasure, books that give information, and books that give inspiration. The first class has its thousands of readers, the second its hundreds, the third its tens. It is a good thing to read books for pleasure—it is the most innocent kind of drunkenness I know about; but that reading books merely for pleasure may develop into a kind of intellectual dissipation is something that we know from experience; for who is there of us who has not sinned? But reading books merely for pleasure is something we should outgrow in childhood, just as we do stilts and marbles and the game of tag. It is a better thing to read books for information. It is one of the healthiest joys of the normal mind to be forever learning something; forever learning and forever coming to the knowledge of the truth. It is the best thing, however, to read books for inspiration. And this is a class of readers into which many of the frequenters of the public libraries never graduate. Ah! the pity of it! Books that lift us out of ourselves and the fogs and fumes and dust of our little treadmill routines into the ampler ether of loftier altitudes—into the grandeurs of life! Emerson and Shakespeare and Wordsworth and Whitman—do men love such as these and remain little men?

No, this is the meat from which giants are grown; here is the food for souls. Now it seems to me it is the duty of the good librarian, one who believes in the august nature of his profession, to lead up his readers by all devices within his power, by imperceptible gradations, through the books that please and the books that inform, to the books that inspire. And the librarian who drops a boy before he learns to love John Milton has only brought him half his journey, and has dropped him before he has reached the destination to which his fare was paid.

Why do not people read the best books? One reason is they never see them. It is a librarian's business to keep them in sight, his next business is to read them himself, and his next business is to talk about them whenever he can get an audience of fifty, or five, or one; to write about them in his monthly bulletins and let every man know he can get them, and welcome, by stretching out his hand. We all know how Tom Sawyer got his fence painted. He made all the boys in his neighborhood believe that fence painting was great fun. The librarian should make all the boys in his neighborhood believe that reading the best books is genuine pleasure. They can be brought to an appreciation of this pleasure as one is brought to the height of a tableland of a great continent, by gradations so gradual that they seem to be walking on a flat surface.

I believe that the great destiny of the public library is as yet but faintly foreseen. The plain truth is that the library has not tried yet to do its best. It has opened its doors and let people come in, if they so desire, or if they happen to be passing that way. No successful auctioneer does business according to any such method. On the contrary he lifts up his voice to all it may concern, and to all that do not care that there are about to be great bargains at his place. The business man who opens his store and then forever holds his peace has his solitude very infrequently interrupted by customers. The church that has no missionary spirit is as tepid as the old

church of Laodicea. The schoolmaster whose pupils absent themselves too frequently collects his daily audience, even if he has to call in the services of the truant officer. All this is written to intimate that the library should have something of the same wisdom. I do not believe it should always wait for people to come to it; it should go to the people. Every family in every city or town where there is a library should be offered a library card, or as many cards as it has adult members. Sometimes there is so much red tape prerequisite to obtaining a library card that a bashful man does not dare to make the attempt. Let us not shut the people off from the books that they have paid for by a barbed wire fence of red tape. Let every man or woman, yes, or child, too, that is old enough, be personally canvassed and offered a library card. Then sell him a catalog at cost price, or better still, at less than cost, and tell him how to use it. Ah, but our trustees will say, this will cost something. Yes, it will cost something, but it will be a tremendously profitable investment, and pay immense dividends later on in a more intelligent citizenship and wiser and happier men. . . .

From all this I wish it might be inferred that no librarian can be too great for his position. It is not easy for him to have too much knowledge, too much tact, too much consecration to his work, too exalted an estimate of his possibilities. He should not have a mind with a flange on it, so that it forever runs on the same rail along the dusty roadbeds of routine. Let him originate, let him innovate, let him blaze his path with the pioneers—let him think.

In the new Welsh catalog of the Cardiff library, the Joneses, great and small, occupy 58 columns. Altogether they number 383 authors, 24 of whom bear the simple name of John. It cost the collaborators whole days sometimes to find out who and what a certain "John Jones" was, but they managed somehow to trace him to earth.

Free Access to the Shelves

Sue C. Nicholls, Ft Atkinson (Wis.) public library

Does access to the shelves add to the interest which people feel in their library, or does it simply gratify a childish desire to handle the books, or does it help the librarian, who so often resembles "the old woman who lived in a shoe?"

Judging from a small librarian's point of view it may do all of these things, but most of all it really adds to the interest of the people by making them feel at home among the books.

These disadvantages, like all their tribe, do not appear at first; but they bide their time, and choose it with special reference to the confusion of the librarian, who, thrilled with the idea of the brotherhood of man has swung open the gate and indicated to her brothers (most of whom are sisters) that the way to the shelves is open if they choose to go. They do choose to go, and just then in comes somebody who knows your theory, and holds an opposite one, and finds you surrounded, hedged in, unable to get to your desk—a frightful example of the truth of the no-access-to-the-shelves belief.

But by and by the little panic is over, and you wish you hadn't been so nervous, not to say cross, and when some of those people come again and look friendly, and take pains *not* to swarm around in the way, you begin to think maybe it's worth while, after all, to hold to your theory.

But beware! Sometimes the saddest faced mortal outside the railing, who affects you so strangely, once inside develops into a veritable savage, and with serene disregard of heaven's first law keeps on turning the books upside down, "wrong side to," in short "makes hay" of them, so that, for the moment again, you lose faith in humanity, and become a pessimist of the deepest dye. Still, none of these things should move us, for, while they may lessen the average of life among librarians, do they not also tend toward the prevention of

overcrowding in the profession? The other day two teachers stood waiting while a lively crowd of small boys was being supplied with favorite books, and one was heard to murmur to the other: It's worse than teaching. Now, this could not possibly be construed into anything quite complimentary to anyone, but evidently the teacher had had a hard day, and was sympathetically watching another's trials, and trying to count her own mercies.

In allowing access to the shelves, not according to the original usage of the library, but from your own conviction that it is reasonable and desirable, one of the difficulties to encounter is, how to deal with people who seem to suspect the librarian of favoritism. They do not accuse you—like Josiah Allen, they "don't say a word, but keep a actin'," and you can't convince them that there cannot possibly be any object in keeping anyone from the shelves except when it is a case of too many at once. They must convince themselves, which I rejoice to say does not take as long as you might suppose, sometimes.

I think it is Oliver Wendell Holmes who considers that one of the requirements in the makeup of a gentleman is that as a child he should have tumbled about in a library. The public library is as near as most of our boys and girls will ever come to many books; and if Squeers and Pestalozzi were right in their educational views, then people must learn to browse by browsing, and how can they unless they have access to the shelves?

Poorly-bound Books

To the Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

Some time ago we inserted in copies of Holmes, Southworth, and Wilson a slip reading as follows:

Notice—Owing to the inferior paper, poor type, and excessive price of this author's works, no more copies will be added to the library until a better edition is issued.

We are today sending back copies of Wilson which are marked throughout by broken type, not to mention poor

paper. It occurs to me, however, that the action of one library will have little effect on the publisher, but if all the public libraries in the country would bind themselves not to purchase another copy of any book that is as poorly made as the books above mentioned, it would compel publishers to get out a better edition. They are, of course, not books that we wish to stimulate the circulation of, and, perhaps, their general bad makeup may furnish a palpable reason for excluding them from the library altogether. We have not ventured to do so thus far, though we are cutting down the number of copies. United action among the libraries would, I think, have considerable effect on the publishers of this class of books, the principal sales of which must be among the public libraries, as the readers of such books are not book-buying people. Can we not have concerted action that will secure a better edition at a lower price?

F. M. CRUNDEN, LIBRARIAN.

St Louis public library.

New Books for Young People

Among the new books of January are many which will be interesting to young people. First may be mentioned Wingate's *What shall our boys do for a living?* (174-W) which tells about all sorts of occupations and the advantages and disadvantages of each. Hopkins' *Twentieth century magic* (793-1H3) describes tricks, also how to make apparatus with which to perform them. Flags of all kinds are described, with pictures, in Holden's *Our country's flag*, and the flags of foreign countries (929-H6). Several good books about the United States have just been published. Hale's *Historic Boston and its neighborhood* (917.44-H2), and Carpenter's *Travels through North America* (917-C2), will suit the younger ones, and Earle's *Home life in colonial days* (917.3-E), Bacon's *Historic pilgrimages in New England* (917.4-B2), and Powell's *Historic towns of New England* (974-P1), while written for grown people, will also be interesting to bright boys and girls. They

are all well illustrated, and the last-named contains a chapter on Salem by the Rev. G. D. Latimer. There are three interesting new books of legends, Higginson's *Tales of the enchanted islands of the Atlantic* (398-H8), Church's *Heroes of chivalry and romance* (398-C11), and W. V.'s *golden legend* (C160.1), the latter containing legends of the saints, etc. A new writer of historical stories, after the style of Henty, is Herbert Havens, three of whose books are *Fighter in green* (H323.4), *In the grip of the Spaniard* (H323.5), *Paris at bay* (H323.6).—*Salem Bulletin*.

Rank of University Librarians

We are going through an evolution, from the time when the librarian was only a variety of janitor charged with the watchcare of the college library. Some years ago it was thought a sufficient recognition if the librarian was put on the plane of a professor; but when we see in our universities now great libraries, with a large staff of active workers, it is plain that the only logical position of the head librarian is that of a dean of a department. The library is the laboratory of every department in the university. It ought to be, and usually is, open on holidays and vacations, while the work of the professors stops; and while the daily hours of the classroom are often completed at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the best libraries are open till 11 at night. An impartial jury, considering the amount and quality of work required, its influence on all the other departments, and its intrinsic value to the university, would be bound to say that at the least the library should have as full recognition in dignity and salary as any other department. If it is large and efficient, with a corps of assistants, the head librarian should rank as dean. In smaller institutions, with limited resources and few assistants, the least that could be done would be to recognize the head librarian as a full professor at the head of a department, with tutors and assistants under him.

MELVIL DEWEY.

Assistants' Associations and Training Classes in England*

M. S. R. James

Hitherto the training of an assistant for the proper fulfillment of his functions has not been considered of sufficient importance in England to justify any special consideration on his behalf. It has been very hard indeed to convince those who would most benefit by the efficient intelligent service of assistants in their libraries, that a properly trained assistant is worth more in time and money to a library than any number of enthusiastic, incompetent persons.

The absolutely complacent satisfaction with things as they are in this respect, as against an improved order, has made it very hard to enforce proper recognition of the necessity of proper training in library routine and detail.

At the basis of active objection I believe lies the fear that if the standard of library assistantship is raised, and if librarians are trained other than by the old system of apprenticeship, which it must be admitted has its distinct advantages, there will be a severer struggle for the available berths, already few in number, and the consequent lowering of the equally meager remuneration. So that this question resolves itself into one of economics, and the difficulty has been and is that the laborer is not considered sufficiently worthy of his hire in this particular work, and therefore really well-educated persons, who naturally expect some immediate return on the outlay for their education and equipment in life, cannot afford to enter a service which, however interesting it may be, cannot hold out any chances of an adequate livelihood, competent remuneration, or ultimate preferment. Therefore the class from which the library assistant is usually evolved is not what is understood in the fullest sense of the word as "educated"; there being a great difference between training and education, though the two words are sometimes used synonymously. In

making these notes it must be understood that the assistants of whom I speak are employed in free public libraries established under the Acts, and that the basis of the average assistant is that of the seventh standard of the board school, helped out by evening study and other forms of self-improvement. These assistants are generally taken on directly they leave school, at the ages of 14 to 16, and do not receive more than 5 to 7 and 10 shillings per week. They are usually placed in charge of the newspaper and periodical room, where they are of more or less use, as the case may be. It is a hopeful sign of the times that some large libraries are now requiring would-be assistants to pass a certain form of elementary examination before engagement. Half of these boy assistants, for they are very seldom girls, if at all bright, seeing there is very little opportunity for them in such a sphere, leave the library for positions which will give them a larger experience and a better chance in life. Some, however, remain, and under the tuition of the librarian, who in most cases is too much occupied to give sufficient attention to the education of his staff, become assistants and sub-librarians, working from the bottom round of the ladder upwards. This method of training, it cannot be denied, has its advantages as before said, but it also cannot be denied that much time is wasted and much material, not to speak of opportunity, in acquiring the proper qualifications for the discharge of the work of a library worthily and well. Personality, except with a few librarians, is not sufficiently considered, and the public is experimented on by apprentice hands, much to the detriment of both library and library frequenters.

So much for the old order which, under stress of circumstances, must give place to new.

As far back as the genesis of the L. A. U. K., members of this body appear to have had a protoplasmic feeling that some sort of preparation for the proper fulfillment of the duties of assistant was

* Read at A. L. A. meeting, 1898.

necessary. The only practical outcome of this sensation, for at the outset it was little more, was a scheme of examination of which the assistants did not avail themselves, not having had sufficient encouragement or help given them, to realize the importance of such a scheme, or to prepare themselves for it. However, in 1881-2, H. R. Tedder, in speaking of librarianship as a profession, a rank it has not yet attained, commented on the need of technical knowledge, and the L. A. U. K., in addition to the examination committee which it appointed, soon after gave lists of books recommended to students wishing to take the examination. Even this did not reach the assistants for various reasons, and as younger members of the art and craft arose, they evinced for them a laudable desire for self-improvement and greater systematic knowledge of their work. In the winter of 1892 a meeting was held at Liverpool, at which two papers on the subject of training as a necessity were discussed. (Ogle 4:319, "Library," 1892; James 4:312 "Library," 1892.)

The outcome of this discussion was the formation of a special committee to arrange a program for a summer school to be held in July. This, the first school, was held on July 18, 1893, lasting a week. The program consisted of lectures, visits to libraries, and demonstrations; 45 students attended, two women among the number. Prizes were offered for the best report. This attempt exceeded all expectations, and equally successful schools were held in 1894 and 1895. At the meeting of 1895 the library assistants themselves, feeling that they could mutually help each other by discussions on their work, and promote an esprit de corps, determined to form an association of their own, which though entirely separate, and not affiliated to the L. A. U. K., should yet avail itself of the parent association's assistance. This determination was arrived at because the students felt that while the L. A. U. K. was extremely helpful and advantageous, its time was ab-

sorbed by larger issues than those presenting themselves to the student of library technique, or would-be assistant. Moreover the L. A. U. K. had no regularly published journal or periodical through which students could obtain information. They agreed in order to avoid criticism to eschew all such questions as the contest of long hours, Sunday labor, or any other such economically vexed questions. It was to be solely for the mutual advancement of the assistant in his work, and it was encouraged by the support of the older members of the L. A. U. K., who gave their sympathy, and, in some instances, their help.

The plan of the L. A. A. was similar to that of the L. A. U. K., the assistants holding monthly meetings at which they read papers and had discussions, endeavoring in all instances to obtain the help of experienced men in the profession; realizing some recreation was necessary they occasionally had smoking concerts and entertainments; they also formed a nucleus of a library of their own. Shortly after the formation of this association a corner in the Library was devoted entirely to their interests, and but for the erratic appearance of this periodical would have been very valuable, as far as it went, indeed was so; but the uncertainty of its appearance, and the necessity for students all over the kingdom to communicate with one another, made the assistants consider the advisability of having a periodical of their own, and after due consideration a small feuilleton was issued by the assistants' association, commencing January, 1898. The L. A. U. K. desiring to assist the L. A. A. as much as possible invited a delegation to be present at a meeting of the summer school committee, in order to hear from them their needs, and to find out how best they could meet them. The report of the summer school of 1897 was most encouraging, and in order to see if more could not be done to promote the technical training of librarians, libraries were canvassed to find out how many students would avail themselves of the

opportunity of attending classes in Library economy should the committee be able to establish these in the winter months. Enough replies were received to justify the committee in attempting to arrange for them, and they forthwith entered into communication with the technical education board of the London County council, hoping to receive a grant from that body in aid of the scheme. It was, however, found impracticable to accept their scheme, and the association proceeded to draft a program of its own, which consisted of courses of lectures by competent and experienced persons. The inaugural meeting, under the chairmanship of Sir John Lubbock, was held on February 25, 1898, and the address given by the Rt. Hon. and Rt. Rev. the Lord Bishop of London. The classes were opened, in courses varying from 7 to 10 lectures, and including cataloging, bookbinding, elementary bibliography, and historical printing. A course of lectures on paleography was at the same time being given at the British School of economics, which was brought before the notice of the assistants. As these classes have only recently been established it is impossible to say anything definite as to their probable success, though it may here be mentioned that the attendance has been far more satisfactory than the most sanguine of those instrumental in their inception had anticipated; 32 seniors, 19 juniors, and 7 unattached students, most of them from London libraries, having attended. A grant for the expenses of these classes was made by the L. A. U. K., and the students' fees themselves brought in over £20, so that after paying all expenses a small balance was left on hand. The secretary of the education committee of the L. A. U. K. will be pleased to receive reports, or any kind of information with regard to the work that is being done so well with similar aims in America, as will also the secretary of the Library assistants' association, who is anxious to obtain everything published on this subject for the library.

Traveling Libraries in Kane Co., Ill.

The traveling library work of Kane Co., Ill., can be done in every county in the country, and this may be a hint to some one else to begin. Of course every county and every neighborhood may have to arrange different details.

In Kane county we have about 100 square miles with 15 townships, each 6 miles square. In the east tier of townships are situated the manufacturing cities and towns of Carpentersville, Dundee, Elgin, St Charles, Geneva, Batavia, Aurora, and Montgomery, with Fox river flowing through each. West from the river lies a rich farming country, largely peopled with men and women of foreign birth and speech with American born children. Here and there are small towns and farming hamlets.

The river towns are plentifully supplied with women's clubs, and many of these have joined to form a county federation for social, educational, and philanthropic purposes. This organization was completed in April, 1898, and, pending the final action, the work on traveling libraries was begun in March, by the gathering into one office room in Elgin and one house in Batavia books, magazines, and pictures, to be distributed among the ungraded schools of the county as supplementary reading. These were also to be sent, through the pupils, into the homes, for the entertainment of the parents, many of whom cannot read much English, but enjoy the pictures and easy reading.

As a result of the federation meetings and correspondence a small club in a farming town was found that was willing to take charge of and circulate a library, the Wednesday club of Hampshire. About the same time the Culture club, of Chicago, offered to send about 600 books and magazines to anyone desiring them. These two clubs were placed in communication, and the first traveling library was placed in April, 1898.

Meantime, hearing of this beginning, the women in two farming hamlets are

organizing small clubs to receive books, and two small libraries, of 20 to 50 books, are ready in the hands of the educational department of the Geneva Improvement association and Elgin Woman's club to forward when called for.

It is part of the plan to find an individual who will take charge of a small library and superintend its distribution when there is not enough interest to form a club, as it is a lamentable fact that in many neighborhoods here the people must be made hungry before they will call for food.

During the next quarter of a century we hope to find that many farm neighborhoods and every school district will be ready to receive and enjoy the traveling library.

So far no money is needed. Pictures, books and magazines have been donated from the homes. Many of the books have paper covers, but many are good fiction, and solid reading also, in these cheaper covers. Many garrets in the river towns groan under the weight of discarded children's books and magazines, and adult magazines, waiting to be bound, but hopelessly waiting, while the hard-working farmer and his overworked wife are sadly in need of this very material to brighten their dull and monotonous lives.

This will be slow work, with many disappointments; but we are working on long lines, with a firm faith in the future and in the value of our cause, and we hope to eventually carry the day, through the enthusiasm of the women at each end of the line.

FRANCES LE BARON,
Chairman library committee Illinois
federation woman's clubs.

The Congressional library now contains 800,000 printed volumes, including the law library of 100,000 volumes, 240,000 pamphlets, 210,000 pieces of music, 25,000 original manuscripts, 60,000 graphic arts, and 45,000 bound volumes of newspapers and periodicals. The present shelving is said to be sufficient to accommodate 2,000,000v.

Catholic Books.

The following list has been prepared in answer to requests from many librarians who are anxious to serve a constituency which claim they do not find in the public library books which deal with questions of vital importance to them.

It is one of Catholic books which will interest the general reader, and ought to be in public libraries, not as a concession to Catholic constituency, but as Catholic literature, or sources of information regarding Catholic subjects, in which every reader or patron of public libraries is interested. A list of purely Catholic literature would be a long one.

This list was prepared by the Rev. Francis H. Gavis, of Indianapolis, a cultured and progressive clergyman, esteemed and beloved by everyone who knows him regardless of religious affiliations.

- Bible. Douay ed. (Catholic version).
- Chapters of Bible study. Heuser.
- Christ, in type and prophecy. Maas.
- Ages of faith. Digby. 4 vols.
- Outlines of dogmatic theology. Hunter. 3 vols.
- Faith of our fathers. Gibbons (Cardinal).
- Christian heritage. Cardinal Gibbons.
- Notes on Ingersol. Lambert.
- History of the mass. O'Brien.
- A Christian apology. Schanz.
- End of controversy. Milner.
- Fabiola. Wiseman.
- Catholic dictionary.
- History of Catholic church in United States. Shea.
- History of the German people. Jannsen.
- Life of Christ. Fouard.
- Life of St Paul. Fouard.
- Life of St Peter. Fouard.
- Chair of St Peter. Murphy.
- The Creed explained. Devine.
- The Commandments explained. Devine.
- Catholic belief. Di Bruno.
- "Stonyhurst" series of Catholic philosophy.
- Metaphysics of the schools. Harper, S. J.
- Science and religion. Zahm.
- Christian anthropology. Thein.
- History of Anglo-Saxon church. Lingard.
- History of England. Lingard. 13 vols.
- Universal church history. Alzog-Pabisch Byrne. 3 vols.
- History of the councils. Hefele.
- Edward VI. and Book of common prayer. Gasquet.
- Henry VIII. and the English monasteries. Gasquet.
- History of the reformation. Cobbett.

History of the Protestant reformation. Spalding.

Recollections. Aubrey de Vere.

Life of Cardinal Wiseman. 2 vols.

Phases of thought and criticism. Bro. Azarias.

Philosophy of Literature. Bro. Azarias.

Books and reading. Bro. Azarias.

Catholic and Protestant civilization. Balmes.

Bible, science and faith. Zahm.

American republic. Brownson.

Lectures and sermons. P. N. Burke, O. P.

Catechism of the Catholic religion, No. 1. Deharbe.

Church and the age. Hecker.

Columbus, Life of. Tarducci.

(Faber's works.)

(Newman's works.)

Genius of Christianity. Chateaubriand.

Ireland, history of. McGeoghan and Mitchell.

Lacordaire's conferences. 5 vols.

Life of Father Hecker. Elliott.

Life of Mary, Queen of Scots. McLeod.

Life of St Thomas of Aquin. Vaughn.

Life of Father Matthew. Maguire.

Christian missions. Marshall.

Memoirs of chaplain life. Corby.

Monks of the West. Montelambert.

Apologia. Newman.

Life of Leo XIII. O'Reilly.

Oxford movement in America. Walworth.

Reading and the mind. O'Connor.

Books and men. Repplier.

Points of view. Repplier.

Poems. Father Ryan.

Things of the mind. Spalding.

Education and the higher life. Spalding.

Church and the Gentile world. Thebaud.

The Irish race. Thebaud.

Errata of the Protestant Bible. Ward.

Science and revealed religion. Wiseman.

Catholic and Protestant countries compared. Young.

Formation of Christendom. 4 vols. Allies.

Catholic Christianity and modern unbelief.

Ricard.

Hierurgia. Rock.

Life of John Boyle O'Reilly-Roche.

Round table of American Catholic authors.

Round table of English Catholic authors.

Ward's life of Cardinal Manning.

"Dark ages." Maitland.

Faber, J. W., Life and letters.

Callista. Newman.

Dream of Gerontius (poem). Newman.

History of the Popes. Pastor. 6 vols.

An unpublished and very important letter of Daniel Webster appears in the March *Scribner's*, in Senator Hoar's Reminiscences. It is the last anti-slavery utterance of Webster, and is dated August 23, 1848, and addressed to Hon. E. R. Hoar.

The Library Primer

The chapters on the elements of library economy, which were published in the opening columns of PUBLIC LIBRARIES under the title A. L. A. Primer, have been remodeled by J. C. Dana, who compiled them in their original form, and will be shortly published by the Library Bureau under the title, A library primer. It will contain three or four times as much matter as did the first draft issued in PUBLIC LIBRARIES. This additional matter consists partly of new paragraphs in many of the chapters as they originally appeared, and partly of additional chapters treating of other phases of library work than those first touched on. The book attempts to give an outline only of library establishment, organization, and management. It covers more of the field than does any other book now obtainable. It not only takes up such topics as buildings, furniture and fixtures, trustees and librarian, book selecting, book buying, classifying and cataloging, charging systems, children's room, reference books and reference work, but touches briefly also on library work as it is connected with the schools and children, with women's clubs, and as it is shown in home libraries and traveling libraries.

The Primer will be fully illustrated, showing samples of appliances described or recommended for use, giving suggestions as to methods and plans of work. Lists of periodicals, reference books, etc., are only suggestive, as of course these things are governed largely by local circumstances.

In broadening the scope of the book an effort has been made to retain those qualities in it which would make it especially useful to persons beginning library work, who may be unfamiliar with the literature of the profession or have none of that literature at hand. On the other hand it is believed that the book will prove to older and more experienced librarians interesting and suggestive.

be drawn by placing these institutions in the hands of the persons rendering such service without training or knowledge not only of the functions of the parts, but of the existence of the parts themselves. The Congressional library, under the supervision of the newly appointed librarian, may be the scene of fewer examples of lack of knowledge of how the public should be served than has been reported recently; but no one with any knowledge of the situation and its demands will claim that it can become all it should and could be if a librarian, in the full sense of the word, were placed in charge. To say that the position was offered to Mr Putnam and refused by him is only begging the question. If, as was currently reported a year and a half ago, Mr Putnam was offered the position afterwards given to Mr Young, and he refused it for the reason that it was so strongly hedged about with political considerations, there certainly was no reason to believe that in so short a time, without the least change in the situation at Washington, he would give up his position at the head of one of the most desirable libraries in the country, with a larger salary, surrounded by a community in accord with his own advanced ideas, to go where appreciation of culture and education often seems an "iridescent dream."

The appointment might have been worse than it is, but at the same time it is a disappointment that the opportunity to take the library out of politics was not utilized, and a National library, equal in administration and policy to any similar institution, inaugurated at this time.

MR CRUNDEN, chairman of the revision of the A. L. A. constitution, has been ill, and has asked Mr Dana to get the report ready for publication in March, if possible. Suggestions are called for and may be sent to members of the committee, but should be sent very soon.

There seems to be a general desire

that there be created within the association a body somewhat akin to the present council, but larger in numbers and with much more power. If, as has been suggested, the present sections of the association be erected into departments with officers, and if the council be, as has also been suggested, made to include representatives of state and city library associations, then the council might perhaps include a few members at large, the executive board, the officers (not more than two each) of each section, and a representative (who must, of course, be a member of the A. L. A.) from each state or city library association. With such an arrangement as this it would be possible for the A. L. A. to be helped financially by affiliated organizations.

If this should be, a general secretary with a salary could be appointed, one of the things which has been considered and is greatly to be desired. PUBLIC LIBRARIES has on several occasions pointed out the value of a permanent secretary, and as the field broadens and the work becomes more complex, the need of such an officer, paid a sufficient salary to enable him to give all his time to the work becomes more evident.

THE outline of the good times prepared by the citizens of Atlanta for the visitors who will be at the meeting of the A. L. A. next May appeals very strongly to one who has never experienced the pleasure that seems to go always with southern hospitality.

Inasmuch as the meeting is to be held in a section where library development is not yet greatly advanced, the program will deal mainly with topics relating to such development, and the librarians of the new or small libraries will find it of advantage to attend the meeting.

The Western librarians who expect to attend are requested to notify G. B. Meleney, travel secretary, Library Bureau, Chicago, at the earliest date possible.

American Library Association

Atlanta, Ga., May 8-20

The committees are planning with all earnestness to make the Atlanta meeting one of the best ever held, and one that will give something of value, not only to the librarians who will be present, but one that will leave an important impression on library interests in the south.

Topics to be discussed at this meeting will be library extension, access to shelves, and cooperation.

A library exhibit will be arranged in connection with the conference, to consist of all the modern library appliances, such as card catalog cases, files, indexes, and original devices for expediting library administration.

The Kimball house will be the headquarters of the convention, and all the meetings will be held in the ballroom. Many ladies of Atlanta have kindly offered their parlors to be used for receptions for the guests, which hospitality will be accepted.

An old-fashioned barbecue will be given at Stone Mountain, and a real coon dance and song for the benefit of the guests, most of whom have never seen anything of the kind.

Addresses will be given at the Grand opera house on the subject of library development in the United States. An interesting feature will be the stereopticon display of various libraries throughout this country. The guests will be given a trolley ride around the city one afternoon during their stay.

On Saturday, May 13, the association will leave for Lookout Inn, to spend Sunday there, and at Chickamauga park. From this place they will start on various post-conference trips.

Library Schools

Illinois

L. E. Stearns, well known in connection with library progress of every kind, and more particularly of traveling libraries, visited the library school on February 2 and 3, and gave three lectures before the classes on children's

reading, library advertising, and traveling libraries. The enthusiasm aroused among the students resulted in their starting a traveling library in Illinois. The plan is not fully matured, but the report of the finance committee signifies that it will soon be carried into full operation.

On January 24 George Day Fairfield, of the department of Romance languages, lectured before the senior class on Romance literature, with a view to the best books for an ordinary public library.

Newton A. Wells has begun work on the upper hallway panel decorations of the library building. An exhibit of the studies for these decorations took place some few weeks ago, and was largely attended; it included pictures which appeared in the Paris salon. Mr Wells is giving a course of weekly lectures on painters and painting, which will conclude early in May with the little masters of the last century.

A joint committee from the state legislature visited Champaign February 17, to look into the interests of the university. Convocation was held in the chapel, and at 12 dinner was served in Engineering hall. Members of the library school waited on the table. There were over 100 present, not including the faculty.

F. M. Crunden, of the St Louis public library, lectured before the library school on Thursday, February 23.

Early in the month Rabbi Emil G. Hirsch lectured before the university on Facts and fiction about the Jews

Statistics from the Urbana library show a marked increase of circulation over this time a year ago, and the posters made by the library students in honor of Washington and St Valentine are attracting much attention.

The new clock is a great addition to library building, and stands in the delivery room, near the loan desk. The tall case is handsomely carved.

Library Meetings

New Hampshire.—The library held a successful annual meeting in Portsmouth, January 25. The morning session was devoted to regular business, questions and answers and suggestions. After dinner the visitors enjoyed visits to the Atheneum and the public library, where they were cordially welcomed, especially at the Atheneum, where they made a thorough inspection of the rooms and contents. At the afternoon meeting Librarian Foss, of Somerville, Mass., gave an address on the inspirational value of public libraries. Miss Johnson, of the Berlin public library, gave an interesting address on her trip abroad last year, and told of her visits to numerous libraries, and how she was for a time one of the catalogers in the National library at Dublin, and as an American librarian, was treated with much respect.

The executive board of the association elected was as follows: Arthur H. Chase, of the State library at Concord; Prof. Bisbee, of Dartmouth college; Col. Daniel Hall, of Dover; Eldora A. Pickering, of Newington; Grace Blanchard, of Concord public library.

Massachusetts.—The Library club held a meeting February 9 in the Boston public library, about 100 members being present. In the afternoon the members were divided into parties, and, by invitation of Mr Putnam, inspected the building and the alterations recently completed. Later there was a session in the lecture room. L. A. Whittier, head proofreader at the Riverside Press, was down for an address on The art of printing, with hints on proofreading and the preparation of manuscript. He was unable to be present, and Gardner Jones, of the Salem public library, and F. W. Lee and Lindsay Swift, of the Boston public library, made extemporaneous remarks on the topic.

Mr Lee, whose work in the printing department of the Boston library is well known, said, among other things, that legibility and correctness of manuscript were essential, but that the great

point in the preparation of manuscript for a printer is for the author or person handling it to make up his mind on what is wanted before the copy goes down to the case or machine. Mr Lee spoke of the relative merits of machine and hand composition in the printing of library catalogs and other publications. He said that the machine, that is, the linotype, is more economical, more accurate—generally more satisfactory.

John Wilson, head of the University Press at Cambridge, made a brief address along the same lines, speaking particularly of proofreading. He urged the employment of experienced and capable proofreaders on all library publications to prevent very troublesome, although seemingly slight, errors in lists of titles and other categorical matters.

Sec. H. C. Wellman stated that the executive committee had presented a resolution looking toward the publication, by the Massachusetts Library club, of indexes and catalogs of state documents. State documents, although apparently not of great current value in public libraries, are nevertheless frequently needed, and to facilitate the use of them proper indexes and catalogs are necessary.

At an evening session of the club in the lecture room, Mr Putnam exhibited more than 100 lantern pictures and diagrams of library buildings all over the world. The slides comprised a careful selection of plans and elevations of the old European libraries and buildings of intermediate dates, and also the latest library buildings which have been erected in Leipsig and Strasburg; Newark, N. J., Providence, R. I., the Congressional library in Washington, the Boston public library and the New York public library.

The series of views, which were of a great deal of professional interest to the members of the club, was a conspectus of library architecture, showing in a simple way the development of it from the old European buildings to the most modern municipal structure in the United States.

Illinois State Library Association

The fourth annual meeting of the state association met at the University of Illinois in Champaign Feb. 21-22, 1899. The weather was rainy, but there was a good attendance of enthusiastic library friends and workers. The visitors who arrived early in the day spent a very interested time in viewing the magnificent library building, and the many devices and appliances for caring for the library. At four o'clock the company assembled in one of the reading rooms, and was cordially welcomed by Pres. Draper. In speaking of the building he called it a product of the school of architecture of the university, as the plans were evolved and worked out by the head of that department, who was himself a graduate of the school. He reviewed the scope of the university, and its progress along certain lines, and spoke of the pleasure and help it was to have the library school in the institution. General regret was expressed at the absence of Mr Crunden, who was kept away by sickness. The company then passed into the room where the library exhibit of posters, bulletins, etc., was displayed, and spent a pleasant hour among them.

On Tuesday evening a most enjoyable reception was given the visitors by the social club of the university, made up of the faculty. Dancing was enjoyed and refreshments were served, and the evening passed pleasantly away.

On Wednesday morning at nine o'clock the company was met by Pres. Draper, Prof. White of the school of architecture, and Prof. Breckenridge, head of the school of engineering, and shown through the different departments of the university, and many interesting features were pointed out.

At ten o'clock the association met in regular session. The president of the association being absent, Mr Meleney, first vice-president, occupied the chair. After several announcements the different reports were called for and disposed of, and the necessary committees appointed. The regular program was

taken up. Problems and possibilities of small libraries was the topic, and the first phase of it was presented by Elizabeth P. Clarke, of Evanston public library, in a paper on

The library and the school

Libraries are proving the power of organization, and the greatest form of this is shown in the coöperation between libraries and schools. In this much depends on the librarian. There must be hearty sympathy between teachers and librarians if anything is accomplished. Acquiescence on either side is not enough. The work of each other must be studied and the children to be served, understood. Teachers know best how this can be done because they know most about the children.

A teacher will know that a boy, whose literary experience has been confined hitherto to stories of Deadwood Dick, cannot be expected to turn at once to history and travel, or be led up to it by books like Little Arthur' history of Rome, or even Knox's Boy travelers. He must be enticed by Howling wolf and his trick pony, by Tobey Tyler, or Ten weeks with a circus. His taste must be gradually and imperceptibly raised by well-written, but equally stirring Indian stories and tales of adventure by Munroe and Stoddard. She will attract the girls away from a dangerous admiration for the sentimental Elsie by an introduction to jolly Polly Oliver, and enterprising Witch Winnie.

If she has a boy or girl who hates books, but has a strong love of out-of-door life and sports, she will leave Blanchan's Bird neighbors on her desk, accidentally open at one of its bright plates; or she will devote 10 minutes some morning to reading aloud from Thompson's, Wild animals I have known, and suggest that the book may be taken home after school.

She will encourage a taste for history with Butterworth's Wampum belt, and Otis's, Under the liberty tree. A love of biography by Brooks's True stories of Washington, Grant, Franklin, etc., with their bright covers and many

pictures. Books written in story form, it is true, that is one main essential—otherwise the pupil might feel that he was being entrapped into an unfair amount of study—but with something besides the story, in which he will become interested and want to read more about. A latent taste for mechanics may be aroused by Lukin's *Boy engineers*, and Trowbridge's, *Three boys on an electrical boat*. And what boy or girl can fail to be tempted into the delightful paths of nature study by the fascinating bird and animal books for children, from Chase's *Stories of bird-land*, and Mrs Ewing's *Great water beetle in a glass pond*, for the little folk, to Holder's *Ivory king*, and Mrs Wright's *Citizen bird*, and the two magazines, *Birds and Animals*.

Many a man and woman of the next generation may owe their love of much of the purest and best in our literature to their first school reading of mythology and poetry. Stimulate the child's imagination and love of the beautiful with Chase's *Nature myths*, and Holbrook's, *Round the year with myth and song*. Give the growing boy Baldwin's *Story of the golden age*, and Lanier's *King Arthur*; it will not be long before Homer and Tennyson are the next steps on the ladder.

The delivery desk, with its rapid work and constant rush, is not the place to cultivate a friendly interest in books, much less a love for good reading.

Suitable books must be discovered, and teachers here are the best source of help. Grade lists are good, but teachers are better, as grades so widely differ. It is necessary to get acquainted with pupils and teachers by visiting classes and informal meetings, to give and take suggestions for books along different lines of work, but above all to cultivate a spirit of appreciation of mutual work.

This work cannot begin too early. There is thought in the statement of a Chicago school principal that 75 per cent of his children leave school at the end of their fourth grade. We all know how few reach the high school; that the

school life of many a child, especially in manufacturing towns, is all told in the few years between 6 and 12. How short the time in which we have to work, and yet at that impressionable age how much may be done!

The most serious obstacle to attempting a school circulation from a library of ordinary size, is the lack of a sufficient number of books, and the fear of cramping the home work. In Evanston we adopted the plan of purchasing whole libraries at a time, each one a collection of about 100 books, carefully chosen, often largely from suggestions of the teachers, for the six lowest grades; for in our schools even the second grades take books. Each library stays in one school three months, or longer, till it has fulfilled its mission and been thoroughly read, and then goes on to the next. This plan saves much of the labor of frequent changing of books, and seems very satisfactory. A graded list accompanies each library for the convenience of the teachers.

In addition to the circulation of books, mounted pictures are often very useful in class work. A collection of the colored plates that come with the magazine *Birds*, pictures of celebrated places and buildings, copies of famous paintings; and portraits of noted men, are always in demand; gathered from illustrated newspapers, old magazines, and every possible source, and mounted on manilla paper or cheap cardboard, they cost little and prove very durable.

The library league is helping to solve many of the problems connected with interesting children in good books. It is important that books be good in material as well as contents. A well-made book, clean work, good print, and attractive covers, not only encourage children to read, but give them a wholesome respect and love for books.

In working with schools it is well to get outline of work from teachers before work begins, so help can be ready when wanted, and particularly for special days and subjects, to avoid congestion. The plan of the Michigan City library, which invites at special times

certain grades, is a good one for enabling the children and teachers to learn resources of the library, and the means of using them. The special index for the children's books and pictures at the Scoville institute is also valuable in the work. Coöperation between libraries and schools is a problem that well repays all study put upon it.

O. F. Barbour, of the Rockford schools, and a member of the library board, gave the result of his investigation in trying to find out the extent of the coöperation throughout the state between libraries and schools. Mr Barbour will prepare this information for publication in a future number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

The next paper was presented by Miss Lyman, of the children's room of the Scoville institute at Oak Park, on The children's room. She said that this was the children's day and the children's work. Grown-up people spend their time in trying to place before them the multitude of good things of which they have knowledge. The description of the rooms and the plan of the work at Scoville institute was given.* The sense of proprietorship and welcome, as expressed in a real children's room, is a strong incentive to the love of books. This library objects to the use of the letter j to designate children's books on account of association with juvenile prisons, etc.

At the close of this paper the session closed, and the delegates were entertained at luncheon by President and Mrs Draper in a most hospitable manner in their elegant home.

The afternoon session opened with an interesting paper on Library exhibits and bulletin board, by Erva L. Moore, of the Wither's public library at Bloomington. She spoke of the value in attracting different classes to the library by means of exhibits. She gave the addresses of a number of sources from which different collections might be obtained, and in a bright way outlined plans of making them valuable as means of education. Miss Moore's pa-

per will appear in full in a future number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Mr Meleney made a witty but stirring appeal for a good attendance at the A. L. A. at Atlanta next May. He was followed by Mr Faxon, who had recently come from the south, and who brought a special message from Miss Wallace to the association for the John Crerar library, of Chicago.

Mr White, before reading his paper on Libraries for defective, delinquent, and dependent classes, gave an account of the work done in the jails of Chicago by the Chicago library club in providing them with reading matter. Mr White's paper, made up from reports and letters received from officers of the institutions, showed a deplorable condition as to library facilities among all the state institutions. Appropriations varying from \$1000 to \$200 are allowed these institutions, and only one seemed to have anything like a sufficient return for the money expended, and in no case did the library seem to play any special part in the work that was being done.

While no special discussion followed Mr White's paper, it produced a deep impression.

A splendid paper on Instruction in the use of library catalogs and reference books was next read by Elizabeth Ellis, of Peoria public library. This paper will be published later.

Miss Milner, of Illinois state normal school, reviewed the methods of instruction in the use of reference books in normal schools generally, and her own work at Normal was explained. The plan will be set forth later.

The nominating committee—Mr Andrews, Miss Sharp and Miss Lindsay—brought in a list of officers which were elected as follows: President, E. S. Willcox, Peoria; 1st vice-president, A. H. Hopkins, Chicago; 2d vice-president, H. H. Cooke, Chicago; secretary, M. E. Ahern, PUBLIC LIBRARIES; treasurer, Mrs J. H. Resor, Canton.

A cordial invitation to the association to hold its next meeting at Rockford was presented by Mr Barbour.

A motion by Mr Barbour that the ex-

*See PUBLIC LIBRARIES for January, 1899.

ecutive board take action to bring about uniformity in securing legislation, and other means of forwarding coöperation in library work, was seconded by Miss Milner, who appealed to the librarians to take more interest in the library section of the State teachers' association. Carried. The meeting then adjourned.

The session on Wednesday evening was held at eight o'clock. It opened with an account of the traveling libraries in Kane county, by Miss Harvey, of Elgin. This work is described elsewhere in these pages.

She was followed by Mrs Reed, of Paxton, a student in the library school. She told of the traveling library donated by the library school of the university, which, with 55 books, was to be sent out soon. She also entered a strong plea for the women's clubs to engage in sending out these books where they are needed, and told of the work done by the club at Paxton, of which she is president.

E. S. Willcox, of Peoria, then took up the dearth of library privileges in the rural districts, and made a strong plea for the traveling library, and, above all, for a library commission which should promote the work. He offered a set of resolutions embodying the present needs, and calling for the appointment of a committee, and for \$5000 to establish and maintain a system of traveling libraries in the state, and moved its adoption, which was done. On motion the president appointed a committee, consisting of Mr Willcox, Miss Sharp, and Mr Andrews, to prepare a bill and present it to the legislature, asking for a library commission law.

Pres. Draper, of the university, was then heartily received by the audience, and gave a splendid address pertinent to the work in the library profession. After expressing the pleasure he had derived from the presence of the librarians, and the stimulation which he felt in hearing the discussion, he said in part: Librarianship has become the work of experts, and one is hardly qualified to speak on the subject unless he has had both training and expe-

rience. But, possibly, the views of a layman may be interesting to the expert, as he can talk more freely than the expert, since he is not limited by facts and theories, nor can he be held to account for his opinions. After listening to the discussions of the convention, the point that rises above anything else is the surprising change in everything connected with libraries. A complete revolution has been wrought by the spirit of the people in charge. My remembrance of the New York state library of 30 years ago, in charge of an educated man, presents a very different aspect of library work from that I have listened to at these meetings. Law students were voted a bore in the library. A constant state of armed truce existed between librarian and readers, but no love! No one was ever encouraged to get a book from the library. The general library was shut up off in a corner, and if a young man wanted to take a book out of the library he had to give his pedigree and show cause for his desire. This spirit has been changed. We are apt to speak of these degenerate days, and we read much of maladministration in civic affairs and elsewhere, but I believe we are growing to a higher life and better things. The great libraries, and the tendency to libraries in smaller places, is an encouraging sign in the life of a nation. Evolution will come through the multiplication of books, and the development of library science is one great step in that direction.

It is usual for new workers in a new field to doubt whether there is room for calling it a science. I want librarians to recognize their work as a science. It is carried on along definite lines, sustained by definite principles. It requires skill and knowledge to plan and carry on library work, with the central thought, to get the books to the people. Dr Winsor was right when he said, the best use of a book is made in using it.

The training of librarians may be properly classified as a profession. Library schools are avoiding the mistakes of older professions by trying to found this

profession on a liberal culture, and nothing else. The principle is acted upon, that its members must be liberally educated. A young man may hang round a law office or a doctor's rooms and catch up phrases that pass for learning, but he never becomes really a doctor or a lawyer. This might be true also in a library, but the person will never be able to apply right methods to the public life he has to deal with. He must discover in the books delivered, lines of development. He cannot do this unless he knows the history of literature, art, science, and the development of the great collection of books relating to these.

No one has larger opportunities in the life of a community to develop every relation of higher and better things than a good librarian. A library board will always give way before the genuine, unbiased librarian in sympathy with the better life of a community, and his work ought to affect that life more than anything else that touches it.

The talk in this convention has been the most inspiring thing I have heard since coming into Illinois, and partly because you have not assumed or asserted that your work is perfection. Things educational are not perfect in Illinois. It has not even begun yet to do what it can do. If I should criticise what you have asked for in this resolution it would be that it does not ask for enough. It is too little. A state does not exist for security alone, it exists for the advancement, mentally and morally, of all its people. It is its function to spend money for the betterment of its people. Illinois should say, every town in the state that will raise \$200 for a free public library shall have a like sum from the state. It should establish a policy of putting a library into every community in the state.

But Illinois will not be behind in the long run. Its future is great. There will come soon, perhaps in 10 or 20 years, a township high school and a township library in every township in the state, and the university stands ready to do everything or anything it can to assist

in bringing this to pass. If we can help we shall be glad.

But no one is opposed to these things. It is indifference which comes from lack of touch and knowledge. Live in the lives of the people around you, and don't be specialized out of the life of the community around you. Everyone who thinks of your work at all is in hearty sympathy with it.

We have enjoyed your being here, and will be glad to welcome you here at any time. We will help you, for you are a help to us, and working together we can accomplish great things.

At the close of Pres. Draper's address the following resolutions were adopted by a rising vote:

The Illinois State library association offers its thanks to the University of Illinois, and the faculty, and especially to President and Mrs. Draper, and the University Social club, for the cordial welcome they have received, the hospitality extended them, and for the opportunity to become better acquainted with an institution in which all should and can feel the best form of state pride.

To Miss Sharp the association offers its thanks for her careful consideration of their comfort, and to the members of her staff and of the Library school for their courtesies and cordial coöperation.

The attendance numbered more than 100, a good program was presented, and one of the best meetings of the association closed at 10 p. m., with a pleased and enthusiastic appreciation of the courtesy and hospitality of the University of Illinois.

At the meeting of the New York library association the following novels were selected as being the best for a village library: *Pride of Jennico*, Castle; *Old Chester tales*, Deland; *Forest lovers*, Hewlett; *Day's work*, Kipling; *Adventures of Francois*, Mitchell; *Red Rock*, Page; *Caleb West*, Smith; *Mariah's mourning*, Stewart; *Wild Eelin*, Black; *David Harum*, Westcott.

Questions and Answers

Q. 4. Is it necessary to put the number of pages of a book on the catalog card in a small library?

A. Neither paging nor size of volume need be given by the small library, unless the dimensions are such as to make the book disappointing by reason of smallness, or troublesome by reason of weight.

Q. 5. What is a good example of a dictionary catalog for a small library?

A. The A. L. A. catalog, issued by the Bureau of education, and which may be had without cost.

Q. 6. Should the librarian act as secretary of the library board?

A. It is for the best good of the library that the librarian should be acquainted with the plans of the trustees for the policy and administration of the library. This knowledge can only come from hearing them discussed, and it is strongly advisable that the librarian be present at the meetings of the board, but not necessary that he be the secretary.

Q. 7. What is the average number of cards for each book allowed in cataloging?

A. The average number of cards to a book is three; fiction will require only two, author and title; biography generally will require only two, subject and author. The same is true of many other books. On the other hand many books will require many more than two. Read Cutter's rules for dictionary cataloging, issued by Bureau of education.

Q. 8. Where can one go to enter an apprentice class in a library?

A. So far as we know, the apprentice classes in the different libraries are confined to residents of the town in which they are held, and are for the purpose of training assistants for local work.

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Notes by the Way

It is true that library machinery is excellent in its way, and any library which disregards the necessity for bestowing much time upon it, and effectually avoiding every tendency to clogging or congestion or irregularity, will do so at its cost.—*W. E. Foster*

New books should generally be bought of one house, unless the library is a very large buyer, when it may be better to divide the trade between the dealers carrying different lines. If one bookseller has all the trade of a library he will take special interest in seeing that the library gets what it wants.—*G. M. Jones.*

The characteristic of a loan system best appreciated by the public is the speed with which it can receive and deliver books. The trifling annoyance of having to wait a few minutes for a book will drive many persons away from a library, and, to a certain extent, from the habit of reading.—*M. W. Plummer.*

Cheap binding not only degrades books but is actually liable to cost more in the end than good work. Each time a book is taken apart, scraped, cut, and rebound, it is more or less injured, and if this is kept up must in time be ruined. Strong, solid work and good materials are always worth their price, and 20 per cent added to the first cost of binding may often be regarded as insurance against further expense.—*D. V. R. Johnstone.*

If your card catalog is kept strictly up to date there is very little danger of duplicates, as before sending an order every item should be compared with record, and also with any outstanding orders. But it often happens that in the press of work the catalog is not up to date. A list on slips of those books on hand which have not yet been cataloged then becomes necessary. It is better to keep this list on slips in order to insert fresh slips in their proper alphabetical order.—*M. W. Plummer.*

Interior Arrangement of Small Libraries

The Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

I asked Oscar Bluemner, through your columns some months ago, why he did not discuss the planning of a small library building from the point of view of the open-shelf system. As he has in the November number expressed himself as in favor of this system, and advocates library construction in accordance with it, I wish to withdraw my inquiry and to admit that it was hasty. What he says about the all-open interior for the small library is excellent. Most library buildings, in addition to other errors of construction, are bad in that they are divided by hard and fast partitions into numerous rooms. Why it should be considered necessary to separate readers of newspapers from readers of periodicals; and the latter from those who are consulting reference books; and the latter from young people who are helping themselves from their own shelves; and the latter from a group of ladies who may be at work in their own special corner; and the latter from the librarian's desk; and the latter from his assistants at their work; and all these from one another, by partitions which exclude light and prevent easy ventilation, and take away, as Mr Bluemner says, from the dignity of the interior, it is difficult to understand. If the main floor of the library be of reasonable size, say even as large as 60 by 60 feet, it seems unnecessary to shut off from other parts of the building even the delivery desk by anything more than a light rail. The notion that a library must be a place of extreme quiet and death-like stillness is a survival of the old library traditions. The interested reader, and we do not care much for the reader who is not interested, and the effective student, cannot be disturbed by necessary movements and necessary conversation if not carried on in death-bed whispers. Many of the problems of library architecture that have troubled the librarian's mind in recent years would solve themselves, if

the building under contemplation were erected with no more partitions in it than good solid construction may call for. J. C. D.

News from the Field

East

The New Haven public library's annual report shows 5072v. added; circulation (exclusive of the schools) 287,261v., an increase of 10 per cent.

The new quarters of the Revere (Mass.) public library were opened to the public February 13. The library has been reclassified and a new card catalog will be made.

Cambridge (Mass.) public library reports a circulation of 121,641v. for the past year, 20,244 card holders; 3700v. are on open shelves, and the total loss from the library was 17v. More room is needed.

Report of the Brockton (Mass.) public library shows the number of books in the library to be 27,605; circulation 118,823, and no. of card holders 11,281, or nearly a third of the city population, and an increase in a year of 750.

Central Atlantic

Louise G. Hinsdale, Pratt '98, has been appointed librarian of the free library at Flushing, N. Y.

Henry C. Buchanan has been appointed state librarian of New Jersey, to succeed Col. Morrison.

The cornerstone of the new public library at Newark, N. J., was laid with appropriate ceremonies on January 26.

Rev. George E. Reed, LL. D., has been appointed to succeed Dr W. H. Egle as state librarian of Pennsylvania.

The Carnegie free library of Pittsburgh, opened another branch library in the West End February 1. Addresses were made by prominent citizens and by the trustees.

Samuel J. Barrows, congressman from Massachusetts, has been nominated by the President for librarian of the Con-

gressional library, to succeed the late J. R. Young.

Andrew Carnegie has offered to give \$100,000 for a library for the Pennsylvania college at Bellefonte, providing the state will appropriate \$10,000 annually for the maintenance of a library and a museum.

The public library at Erie, Pa., was dedicated February 16 with impressive ceremonies. A check for \$5000 was sent, with a letter of congratulation, from Andrew Carnegie. The library starts with 9500v.

The report of Mrs M. E. Craigie, of Brooklyn public library, shows a wonderful work for the means at command. Number of books, 10,816; number of readers, 98,965; books circulated, 80,289; amount of library funds, \$5,000.

The report of Librarian Carr, of Scranton (Pa.) public library, speaks of the competition of the wheel and war excitement causing a decrease in the circulation of the library, though the use of the reference room, where there is free access, was considerably increased.

The library of Princeton university has closed a very notable year. There have been added 5554 books, 5199 pamphlets, and 6495 periodicals have been recorded. The cash gifts and pledges amount to \$35,000. Total issue of books was 21,658. The problem for this year is reclassification.

Central

The Carthage (Ill.) public library received \$1000 by the will of Willis Bernethy.

Racine (Wis.) public library has received \$500 from some public spirited citizens to buy books.

Almena R. De Puy has been engaged to make a new catalog for the Galesburg (Ill.) public library.

Mrs M. P. Scheeler, librarian of Marshalltown, Iowa, resigned her position and has been succeeded by Mrs Maude Battis.

The Reuben McMillan public library

of Youngstown, Ohio, was opened to the public February 16, with appropriate ceremonies.

A beautiful new library building is being erected in Painesville, Ohio, the gift of J. H. Morley. Mrs Julia G. Erwin is the librarian.

The club house building erected at Albion, Mich., by Mrs Mary Sheldon-Ismon, has formally passed into the city's hands. It is valued at more than \$20,000.

The Joseph Dessert library, of Mosinee, Wis., was dedicated February 11. It is a handsome building, and would be a credit to a much larger town than Mosinee.

The new library building presented to Geneseo, Ill., by Joseph Hammond, was turned over to the city on January 26, and the library is installed in its new quarters.

The late C. T. Mitchell, of Hillsdale, Mich., gave that city in his will his elegant residence and the beautiful grounds surrounding it for a public library. He also gave the city \$10,000 to spend in books and furnishings for the library.

Mrs Oberholtzer, librarian of Sioux City, Iowa, reports that although the war excitement affected the business of the library in some lines unfavorably, 1036 new borrowers were registered, and 56,189 books circulated, the largest number in the history of the library.

The city council of St Paul, Minn., has turned the Market house property over to the library board for an endowment fund, and with the subscriptions which have been made the city will soon have a splendidly housed and equipped library, with sufficient means to sustain it.

New Harmony, in Posey Co., Ind., has just received a gift of \$43,000 from Dr. Murphy, who some years ago presented the town with its splendid library building and art gallery and museum. The latter already have the best collections in the state, and this last

gift of Dr Murphy is for the maintenance of the library.

The St Louis Mercantile library has extended its privileges of membership to anyone who will pay \$5 a year; arrangements have been made whereby parcels of books are shipped at reduced rates to members living out of town, who are offered every facility for using the library. There are 110,000v. covering all classifications, and about 470 newspapers and magazines.

The beautiful library building given by Wm. H. Laird to Winona, Minn., was dedicated January 21, and turned over to and accepted by the city with appropriate ceremonies. The building has a frontage of 84 by 64 feet, with a book stack extending 30 feet to the rear, so constructed that it can be enlarged at any time that it is found desirable to take such a step, without injuring the symmetry of the structure. It is a classic edifice in the renaissance style, and is surrounded by a terrace encompassed by a curbing of stone.

West

The twelfth annual report of Librarian Dudley, of the Denver City public library, shows that for the 12 years in a circulation of 1,500,000 books there have been lost only 68 books.

The free library of Newton, Kan., is the only library in the state supported by a tax on the city property. The population of Newton is 5000, and the library has 4700 books. The circulation last year was 11,739v., and number of readers at library was 19,198.

South

Andrew Carnegie has offered \$100,000 to Atlanta, Ga., for a free public library, on condition that the city furnish the site and devote \$5000 a year for the maintenance of the institution.

The Seaboard air line, among other things, has provided a circulating library department for the benefit of the farmers along its route. This work is in charge of Mrs E. B. Heard, who is also one of the library commissioners

of the state, and who has a number of these S. A. L. traveling libraries, as well as others given by friends of the movement, doing effective work.

George W. Park, of Asheville, Tenn., has given to the Asheville Library association an office building valued at \$25,000. The first floor will be fitted up for library quarters. The three floors of offices and the basement will be rented, thus insuring enough revenue to support the institution.

Pacific Coast

Mary L. Jones, of the Iowa State library staff, having been called to California by the death of her father and mother, has resigned her position in the state library and will remain on the coast in charge of the training class to be started anew in the Los Angeles public library.

The report of the Library association of Portland, Ore., shows more subscribers registered last year than at any other time since the library was founded. The circulation for the year was 44,393v., with 59,060v. used in reference at the library. A class in the study of library methods has been started. The catalog is well under way.

Foreign

The report of the Aberdeen library shows an issue for the year of 269,392v., with free access in the reference room. The fines imposed for detention and loss numbered 19,295, for which £129 11s. 8d. was collected.

Gen. Eaton has laid plans to start a traveling library system in Porto Rico, modeled after the New York system. It will be divided systematically into departments, and there will be books on all branches of science and art. Publishers of books and magazines in the United States who may wish to help the library may send their contributions to Gov. Gen. Henry, San Juan, Porto Rico, by government transport. They should be marked, "For the library," and no customs duties will be levied on such contributions.

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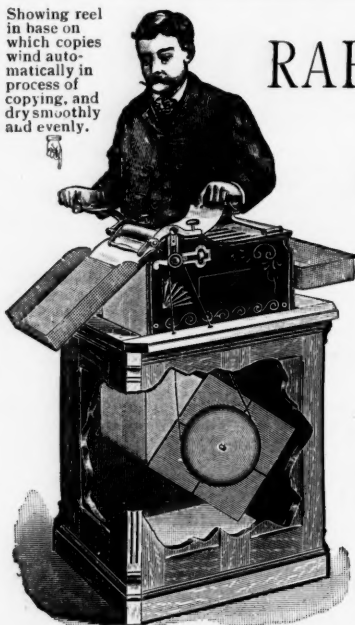
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